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PEABODY & LANE CORPORATION

NEW ENGLAND STEAMSHIP AGENTS

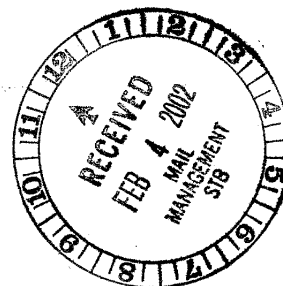
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Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
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Washington, D.C. 20423

Charles Ehler, Acting Director
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
SSMC/ORM3
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

Re: AB 32 (Sub No. 91) October 24, 2001
Boston and Maine Corporation
Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service
Mystic Wharf Branch, Suffolk County, MA

FEB 06 2002

Part of
Public Record

Gentlemen:

We write in total support of the request of the Office of Coastal Zone Management to review the presently unlisted activity in regard to the proposed abandonment of the 1 ¼ mile segment of track the Mystic Wharf Branch by the (B & M) – the Boston and Maine Corporation.

Our firm is a steamship agency incorporated since 1932 handling vessels as agents for the vessel owners in the New England area from Searsport, Maine to Providence, RI.

Our office is located at 100 Terminal Street in Charlestown, MA on the very property, known as Moran Terminal (operated by Autoport handling some 90 vessel calls per year) that the 1 ¼ mile rail track transits to the U.S. Gypsum plant.

The U. S. Gypsum plant has been here for some 70 years. It is on the deep water channel of the Mystic River, and brings in some 12 vessels per year with gypsum rock from Nova Scotia, and in turn produces gypsum sheeting for the New England construction industry. The sheeting is wrapped in the paper which the railroad hauls.

Last Wednesday, October 17, 2001 the day of the Port Operating Meeting, held on the terminal, the railroad hauled in 5 boxes and hauled out 2 boxes of freight. So we have an actively used rail for support of an active Boston terminal plant, on deep water, a badly needed supporter of the Seaport of Boston.

Our experience with CZM is that we hold it with highest regard. Without CSM by its very active interest in this issue, we would be defenseless.

Sincerely,
Peabody & Lane, Corp.

Arthur Lane
Arthur Lane
President

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